Your Instructor

- Stephen Porter – Temp Housing assignments as Action Officer, Mission Specialist, Mission Manager

US Army Corps of Engineers
Huntington District

One Corps serving the Army and the Nation

Preliminary Site Assessment

- FEMA may not determine a need for a group site until several weeks after the disaster
- As circumstances allow, potential sites should be identified immediately upon arrival into the disaster area
- Maintain a single binder or folder containing information about all potential group sites

Required Equipment

- GPS unit (preferably one that can download data directly to a computer)
- Digital camera
- County road map/USGS topo maps
- Assessment form

  - GIS-equipped laptop, while not required, can be extremely helpful and

US Army Corps of Engineers
Huntington District

One Corps serving the Army and the Nation

Initial Site Assessment

- Several ways to identify potential sites
  - Windshield Surveys
  - GIS mapping
  - FEMA Floodmaps
  - USGS Topographic/County Maps
  - City/County Tax maps
- Local officials may know of potential sites
- FEMA may want run ads requesting

Windshield Surveys

- Can be conducted in conjunction with initial debris/damage assessments
- Can quickly eliminate/approve potential sites initially identified through other methods
- Doesn’t require potentially time-consuming interaction with landowners & neighbors

US Army Corps of Engineers
Huntington District

One Corps serving the Army and the Nation

GIS Mapping

- Can very quickly eliminate/identify potential sites without leaving office, if proper data is available
- Data layers allow rapid comparisons between potential sites
- Can utilize GPS units to map potential sites
- Data can be easily transferred between local, state and federal

US Army Corps of Engineers
Huntington District

One Corps serving the Army and the Nation

FEMA FIRM's

- Required to determine floodplain status of potential sites
- Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMS) or Q3 data required for GIS use.
- Can be used to direct windshield surveys into areas

US Army Corps of Engineers
Huntington District

One Corps serving the Army and the Nation

USGS Topo/County Maps

- Useful for navigation when trying to find specific sites
- County route numbers/street names extremely valuable if road signs are down
- Portions of the maps can be copied and provided to field personnel very easily
- Some information on maps may be

Site Requirements

- Sufficient size for anticipated need (capacity):
  - 1 acre can (generally) contain 4-6 mobile homes
  - 1 acre can (generally) contain 10-12 travel trailers
  - This includes necessary utility networks and roads
- Water (onsite or accessible)
- Reliable electrical distribution access
- Sewer (although if not available a package treatment plant may be an

US Army Corps of Engineers
Huntington District

One Corps serving the Army and the Nation

Questions for landowner

- Do you own the property?
- Are they willing to lease property to FEMA for a group site?
- Are utilities available/accessible?
- What are the property boundaries?
  - Is there a recent survey? *(Can they provide a copy?)*
  - Any disputes with adjoining landowners/neighbors?
- Are there any liens or potential liens on the property?
- Are there any outstanding leases or rights-of-way (ROW) with other individuals/corporations?
- If so, are activities occurring that could negatively impact quality of life for residents?
  - Mining
  - Oil/natural gas extraction/exploration?
  - Industrial use
  - Agricultural use
  - Construction activities
- What activities have occurred on the site in the past?
- Are their any cemeteries or historical structures on/near the site?

US Army Corps of Engineers
Huntington District

One Corps serving the Army and the Nation

What to do

- Get Right of Entry (ROE) from landowner
- Record coordinates at site
- Photograph site
- Sketch site (pay particular attention to utility location and how to get there)
- Note ANY potential problems:
  - Lack of utilities (W/S/E)
  - Poor access that can't be easily/cheaply fixed
  - Poor site conditions (subsidence, water seeps, dangerous conditions)
  - Evidence of contamination/HTRW issues
  - Boundary line issues/disputes
- Note *anything* that will assist decision makers

Water

- Note nearest water main (*real* fire hydrants are good indicator)
- Determine who supplies water (water company/PSD/municipal)
- Get POC

Sewer

- In rural areas, municipal sewer treatment may be unavailable; however this does not immediately disqualify a potential site
- Note nearest manhole (if applicable)
- Determine who service provider is (PSD/municipal/private)
- Get POC

Electrical Service

- Note proximity to electrical transmission lines
- Determine who service provider is (power company/REC/municipal)
- Get POC

Phone/Cable Service

- Note overhead telephone/cable lines co-located on electrical supply poles
- Determine who service provider is (power company/REC/municipal)
- Get POC's

FEMA coordination

- Supply site assessment information to FEMA ASAP:
  - Feasible
  - Unfeasible (and reason why)
- If feasible:
  - Provide map of site (if one wasn't included in site assessment information)
  - Provide driving directions to site
  - Supply landowner contact information
  - Supply utility company POC information
- Determine who will be performing NEPA work and issuing FONSI
- Make contact with utility companies
- Make contact with state/local agencies in regard to regulations/codes that may impact site

USACE "Next Steps"

- If FEMA says site is a go:
  - Perform topographic survey of site
  - Begin site design
  - Make contact with utility companies
  - Make contact with state/local agencies in regard to regulations/codes that may impact site design/development
  - Begin applying for all necessary permits
  - Try to get all fees waived

US Army Corps of Engineers
Huntington District

One Corps serving the Army and the Nation

Discussion

Questions?